

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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SENATE HEALTH CARE BILL REPEALS THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND, THREATENING NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY

Washington, D.C., June 23, 2017 – The below is a statement from Emily J. Holubowich, Executive Director of the [Coalition for Health Funding](http://www.publichealthfunding.org).

“The discussion draft of the ‘Better Care Reconciliation Act’ poses an immediate threat to Americans’ health security by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund beginning in fiscal year 2018—leaving a nearly \$1 billion hole in the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and just three months for lawmakers to find a way to fill it.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is a critical source of funding for CDC, representing 12 percent of the agency’s overall budget and as much as 100 percent of some of the agency’s core programs. The Fund supports state and local public health efforts to immunize children, detect and prevent the spread of infectious disease outbreaks, and fight the leading causes of death such as heart disease. A cut of this magnitude would have ripple effects throughout the agency, and would likely spill over into other health agencies and programs—medical research, substance use treatment, workforce development—as lawmakers seek ways to fill the void left by repeal.

As in the practice of medicine, the first goal of health reform should be ‘do no harm.’ Repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund not only does more harm than good, it unnecessarily cuts for cutting’s sake without regard for the side effects. It’s the federal government’s responsibility to protect and defend the American people against threats, both foreign and domestic. Shortchanging public health leaves Americans vulnerable to known health threats such as Zika virus, opioid addiction, antibiotic resistance, cancer, foodborne illness, lead poisoning, and those threats yet to be identified. Put simply, repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund will compromise our nation’s health security.”

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The Coalition for Health Funding works to preserve and strengthen federal investments across the public health continuum. Founded in 1970, the Coalition’s diverse members organizations—representing more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers—speak with one voice before Congress and the administration in support of federally funded health programs with the shared goal of improved health and well-being for all.

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>